

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-10 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10

NEA-09 NSAE-00 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC 6086

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DEPT PASS OE/HEW FOR LEESTMA, NIE, AND LABOR FOR METCALF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, OECD

SUBJECT: CERI GOVERNING BOARD MEETING, FEB. 25-26, 1975

REF: A) CERI/CD/A(75)1, 1ST REV.; B) OECD PARIS 2405

1. SUMMARY. CERI GOVERNING BOARD MET FEBRUARY 25-26 TO REVIEW 1975 WORK PROGRAM AND FUTURE OECD EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. US OBSERVER ROBERT LEESTMA, OE/HEW, SAID US WOULD CONTRIBUTE ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT IN 1975S AS IT DID IN LAST YEAR (\$212,000), AND WOULD PARTICIPATE AS "FULL" CERI MEMBER IN 1976 OR NOT AT ALL. GB RECOMMENDED EXTENSION OF CERI MANDATE BEYOND DECEMBER, 1976 AND APPROVED STUDY TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY/DESIRABILITY OF CONVERTING CERI INTO SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION CENTER. END SUMMARY.

2. STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR - AGENDA ITEM 4

CERI DIRECTOR GASS REVIEWED RECENT OECD INITIATIVES SUCH AS INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND MNES, COMMITTEE FOR ENERGY POLI-
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CY AND ADOPTION IN PRINCIPLE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FUND.

GASS ADVISED GB TO CONSIDER PRESENT AND FUTURE WORK ON EDUCATION IN LIGHT OF OECD'S PRIORITIES AND BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS. HE STATED THAT MSAC IS REVIEWING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT SITUATION WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON DISADVANTAGED GROUPS SUCH AS MIGRANT FOREIGN WORKERS. THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S AD HOC GROUP (CHAIRER BY CLARK KERR) ON RELATIONS BETWEEN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE COUNCIL AND TWO COMMITTEES (EDUCATION AND MSAC) AT AN EARLY DATE. GASS REPORTED ON HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE ON TEACHER POLICIES HELD NOVEMBER 26-29, 1974, WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER POLICY MAKERS, TRADE UNIONISTS, PLANNERS AND PRACTITIONERS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES. THIS DIALOGUE HAS ALREADY RESULTED IN FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS PLANNED JOINT CERI/EDUCATION COMMITTEE PROGRAMS.

3. 1975 PROGRAM OF WORK (CERI/CD(75)2) - AGENDA ITEM 5.

BECAUSE OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, SECRETARIAT WILL SUBMIT TO GB PROPOSALS TO BETTER UTILIZE AVAILABLE RESOURCES BY REGROUPING ACTIVITIES. RE PROBLEM OF FINANCING IN GENERAL AND US PARTICIPATION IN PARTICULAR, GASS ASKED WHETHER SOLUTION DEPENDS ON FULL PARTICIPATION IN CERI BY ALL OECD COUNTRIES. US OBSERVER LEESTMA INFORMED GB THAT DESPITE EXTREMELY TIGHT BUDGET, THE US IS ENDEAVORING TO CONTRIBUTE TO CERI FOR 1975 AT APPROXIMATELY SAME LEVEL AS IN 1974, \$212,000. HE ADDED THE TOTAL IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS AND COULD BE SOMEWHAT MORE; THE EXACT AMOUNT WILL BE DECIDED BY APRIL 15. THE FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT PARAS FROM LEESTMA'S STATEMENT:

"IT IS NOW MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY SERIOUS QUESTION BY THE VARIOUS US FUNDING SOURCES THAT MAY BE INVOLVED HENCEFORTH OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PART I FORMULA (25 PERCENT) AS THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNING PRINCIPLE FOR FUNDING CERI IN ITS PRESENT FORM FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO THE CASE THAT IF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE NATURE OR MISSION OF CERI SHOULD CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY FROM WHAT IT IS AT PRESENT, THE ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF THE PART I FORMULA JUST STATED IS NOT NECESSARILY TRANSFERABLE TO A RECONSTITUTED ENTITY IN PART II. A SIGNIFICANT DILUTION OR DOWNGRADING OF THE EDUCATIONAL FOCUS AND EFFORT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT LEAD VARIOUS MEMBER STATES TO RECONSIDER THE QUESTION OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS".

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"THE UNITED STATES WILL REQUEST A CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL STATUS FOR THE PRESENT YEAR, 1975, IN CONSIDERATION OF A TOTAL US CONTRIBUTION FOR 1975 OF APPROXIMATELY LAST YEAR'S LEVEL (\$212,000), BUT WITH THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING

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THAT THIS IS THE LAST YEAR SUCH A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WILL BE REQUESTED. IT WOULD ALSO BE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT IS OUR INTENT FOR 1976 THAT THE US WOULD BE EITHER IN OR OUT OF CERI ON THE SAME REGULAR BASIS AS ANY OTHER MEMBER COUNTRY, AND IT IS CLEARLY OUR EXPECTATION AT THIS TIME THAT WE WOULD BE IN AND ON A "FULL" BASIS. I MUST REEMPHASIZE THAT THERE IS NO GUARANTEE EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED IN THESE FINANCIAL ESTIMATES, BUT WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THESE PROJECTIONS WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO FIRM REALITY IN DUE COURSE".

4. FUTURE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CERI/CD(75)3)-
AGENDA ITEM 6

GB CONSIDERED SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS CONCERNING CERI'S

FUTURE SINCE PRESENT MANDATES FOR CERI AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 1976. PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE OECD EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EARLY IN 1976. THREE BROAD ALTERNATIVES WERE PRESENTED: A. MAINTAIN EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN CERI, EDUCATION COMMITTEE, AND MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MSAC); B. PLACE

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MSA COMMITTEE AND AN EDUCATIONAL AGENCY (COMBINING PRESENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND CERI) UNDER PART II OF OECD BUDGET; C. MAINTAIN EXISTING PLENARY COMMITTEES AND CONVERT CERI INTO A SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION CENTER. MOST COUNTRIES FAVORED ALTERNATIVE A, MAINTAINING STATUS QUO. (SEE US STATEMENT IN PARA 3 ABOVE). SWEDEN WAS THE ONLY STRONG PROPONENT OF THE ALMOST IMMEDIATE CONVERSION OF CERI TO A SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION CENTER.

GB ENDORSED CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN PARA 12 OF DOCUMENT, I.E., CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN EDUCATION, SOCIAL, MANPOWER AND ECONOMIC SECTORS OF OECD. GB AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT CERI BE EXTENDED FOR UP TO 5 YEARS ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING STATUS (ALTERNATIVE A ABOVE), AND THAT COORDINATION BETWEEN CERI AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE BE REINFORCED. GB ALSO PROPOSED STUDY OF THE DESIRABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF PROPOSED SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION CENTER, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROPRIATE MECHANISM WHICH WOULD COORDINATE WORK OF THE EDUCATION, MSAC AND COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY.

5. COMMENT.

SECRETARIAT AND OTHER DELEGATIONS WERE PLEASED WITH LEESTMA STATEMENT WHICH, AS US MISSION REQUESTED IN REF B, WAS CLEAR EXPRESSION OF US POLICY TOWARD CERI FOR 1975 AND 1976.
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